



S-CAL RESEARCH CORPORATION

Application/Control Number: 10/716,064

Art Unit: 3672

Inventor: Michel Gondouin (a.k. Michael Gondouin)

Examiner: Daniel P. Stephenson

Filing Date: 11/17/2003, with a request to "Make Special" due to the Inventor's Age: 76 years old, when filing the Application.

Such a legitimate request was NOT granted nor even considered by the US PTO...

HISTORY OF CLAIMS:

Examiner Stephenson decided that some of the Tools required for the pre-fabrication, construction and transport to a well site on the North Slope of AK, of the required tubular elements, belonged to a different Art Unit (3740), instead of his own (3672), because they dealt with Pipe-threads protectors.

Their function, however, is only of a minor interest to me, because there are many other ways of doing the same thing, using several simple Pipe-threads protectors, already on the market, patented or not.

Accordingly, he gave me the choice of restricting my Application to the rest of the Specification with, of course, some new claims.

-1-

FAX : (415) 482-0759

32 San Marino Drive • San Rafael, CA 94901 • (415) 456-8237

For this reason, claims 1 to 12 and 24 were rejected by the Examiner.

They were Cancelled in the Revision No. 1, but claims 13-23 and 25-27 remained pending and subject to correction.

A new claim # 28 was added and claims 13-23 and 25-27 were corrected and designated # 29 to # 42 in Revision No.2.

The numbering order of the claims, however, was still incorrect, because they were not consecutive. This led to claims # 43-50 and 51-53 in Revision No.3

The Examiner, then, considered that the Invention consisted of an Apparatus AND of a Method, so that some of the claims had to be split, accordingly:

Revision No.4 replaced them by claims 43-50 and 54-65 for an Apparatus and new claims 66-70 for a Method, in Revision No.5, submitted on 03/14/06.

ALL of them were later CANCELLED in Revision No. 6.

They were replaced by a total of 25 claims numbered:

- 66-85 for an Apparatus, with an Independent claim # 66, and:
- the Method was covered by claims 86-90, with an Independent claim # 86.

These 25 claims are still pending. I suspect that they have not yet been considered for their technical content, rather than for their form, by the Examiner.

FOCUS OF THE APPLICATION

I know that my application is quite complex. It deals primarily with heat transfers between various fluids, using a recently-developed Nanotechnology for making thermally-insulated pipes and using fiber optic sensors for continuously monitoring, recording and optimizing the over-all process, specifically for the Heavy Oil recovery from cold reservoirs. None of those conditions or goals has yet been considered by the Examiner.

DIVISION OF THE ORIGINAL SPECIFICATION:

The "Ellis" Patent, referred by the Examiner, is not relevant to any of the above mentioned technologies, to the over-all process, nor to the main goals of my application.

After the Examiner suggested that the original application be divided into two separate potential patents, I readily opted for the cancellation of the composite Pipe-thread protectors of FIG.7 of the original specification, while keeping what I consider to be the focus of the application. FIG.7 was therefore cancelled.

In addition, the original text of the specification, is amended as follows, due to the re-numbering of the Prior Art Drawings: FIG.1 A., FIG.1 B. and FIG. 1 C, instead of: A, B, and C, required by the Examiner. The addition of a Numeral is also shown on Item 008, line 1, on Item 013, line 2, on Item 015, line 4, on Item 036, line 3, on Item 049, line 1, on Item 052, line 1,

In Item 112, line 4, FIG 6A is corrected to FIG.6 and lines 10 to 12 are cancelled.

In Item 113, all lines are cancelled.

In Item 114, all lines are cancelled.

In Item 115, all lines are cancelled.

ADDITION OF NEW FIGURES:

New FIG. 3 A, herein enclosed, has been added to show in much greater detail the features of the claimed apparatus.

It also revises line 1 of Item 056, and in Item 074, all lines .

MODIFICATION OF FIGURE 6:

FIG.6 was slightly revised, primarily for improving the clarity of its description.

CANCELLATION OF FIGURE 6 A: (see item 105 deleted and FIG.6 A on Item 108, line 1, corrected to FIG.6)

FIG. 6 A and its description were cancelled in item 060, all lines, and in item 105, all lines, because they relate to a now-common practice in Petroleum Engineering for Multi-branch wells, and their well-heads, disclosed in recent SPE and Canadian publications, about handling Heavy Oil, steam and gases, at the surface, since the filing date of this application. The combination of rapidly climbing High Oil prices and of a worldwide scarcity of Crude Oil has unleashed the technical development of Heavy Oil recovery, in reservoirs which are NOT overlain by a thick Permafrost, nor by a deep ocean.

In Item 108, line 1, FIG.6 A is also corrected to FIG.6.

In Item 112, line 4, FIG.6 A is corrected to FIG.6, and lines 9 to 12 are cancelled.

In Item 113, all lines are cancelled.

In Item 114, all lines are cancelled.

In Item 115, all lines are cancelled.

It is perhaps regrettable that while the present patent application remained quasi-dormant, despite my written request to "make it special", due to my age, others, actually, developed this portion of the required technology. It is, however, comforting to see that younger engineers have proven that, at least this part of my design is quite doable. It may have already been patented...

CORRECTED ABSTRACT

The abstract has been condensed to the required number of words.